AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the description of Figure 2 on page 7 as follows:

Figure 2 shows the [[30]]37 bp fragment used as a mRNA instability sequence in Example 1 (SEQ ID NO:29, SEQ ID NO:30);

Please amend the first paragraph of Example 1 on pages 35 to 36 as follows:

Example 1: Construction of pGL2 Neo30 and stable cell lines

In order to obtain a vector for stable integration into THP-1 cells, a XhoI-SalI fragment of the neo resistant gene (expressing aminoglycoside 3'phosphotransferase) derived from pMC1neoPolyA (Stratagene) was subcloned into the SalI site of pGL2-Control (Promega). This resulting plasmid was called pGL2_Neo. A [[30bp]]37bp fragment (containing three tandem AUUUA motifs and flanking IL-1β 3'UTR sequence) obtained by annealing two complementary synthetic oligonucleotides (see Figure 2) was subcloned into pGL2_Neo using the PflMI restriction site. This results in the luciferase expression vector pGL2_Neo3O (Fig. 3A). Fig. 2 shows the IL-1β 3'UTR sequence containing three tandem AUUUA motifs used for ligation into the PflMI site of pGL2_Neo. Expression vector pGL2-β-galactosidase (Figure 3B) has the lacZ gene driven by the same promoter (SV40) as the luciferase gene in pGL2_Neo3O and pGL2_Neo, but plasmid pGL2-β-galactosidase does not contain any mRNA instability sequences. The lacZ gene was obtained from a HindIII/BamII restriction digest of pSV-beta-Galactosidase (Promega) and subcloned into the HindIII/BamHII site of pGL2-Control (Promega).